

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

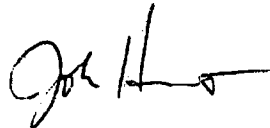
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Please accept this letter as an indication of my full support for the settlement that was recently agreed to by Microsoft and the Justice Department with regard to their antitrust lawsuit. Settling this matter in order for Microsoft and the rest of the industry for that matter to begin innovating again is in everyone's best interest.

My understanding of the settlement is that Microsoft did not get some sort of secret "sweetheart deal." On the contrary, the software company has in fact agreed to terms that extend beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the three-year lawsuit. After three years, one would think that all the parties would know what issues are at stake, and Microsoft's competition should have no justification for asking for even more than what was litigated over for the past three years. Therefore, a breakup of Microsoft, as some in the government strove for, is not necessary. As it stands, Microsoft will disclose for use by its competitors various lines of code for Windows products. I understand this is unprecedented in an antitrust settlement. It also agreed not to enter into any agreements obligating any third party to distribute or promote any Windows technology exclusively or in a fixed percentage. Lastly, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows OS.

It seems to me that the settlement covers all of the bases and should therefore be implemented.

Sincerely,



John Hunt  
President